

Arizona Girls State Independent



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How can I be a true Girls State Alumni when I go home?

Veronica Boyd
Pinon City Reporter

During a regular school year, many students look forward to the weekend. But here at Girls State, no matter how sleep deprived you are, many of us don't want to leave. We can agree that we have made so many connections and bonds not only with our cities and counties, but with our entire state. It's crazy to think that we just checked into our dorm rooms and introduced ourselves to our roommate for the week; and today, we will already begin cleaning up and packing up our belongings, wishing there was an extended stay option.

One of the fondest memories that we will all take back with us to our communities will be the presentation given to us by Charlene Fernandez. She is a legislative who believes strongly in feminism, passing bills that will benefit the majority of the state, and for voting for the best candidate, no matter what party. You could tell the audience really made a connection by the constant cheering, clapping, grins, and from nods of approval.

During yesterday's presentation, Kennedy Prock asked our guest speaker how we can bring her inspiring, motivational energy back to our communities. She began her instruction by explaining how we can show all

voting citizens the realization that what party you are shouldn't matter when deciding who will represent our sunny state. Charlene continued by explaining that you need to really consider every candidate's experience and background and make sure to watch and listen to what they believe in and how they apply themselves to various situations. This was an amazing question because Charlene was able to give us life lessons that will allow us to be the true Girls State 2015 alumni we will shortly become and some insightful tips for those of us who will be allowed to register to vote soon.

She explained to us that we need to make opportunities for ourselves and not wait for others to present them to us. She discussed how she lost the first time she ran for legislative, but then went on to explain how she managed to not lose her drive and perseverance for her next campaign where she ended up winning. This shows us that we can accomplish anything we put our minds to because we are qualified individuals who contain strong wills that need to be fulfilled. By doing this, she has spoken out against "feel good bills" where, if passed, would actually do more harm than good for the state.

Being apart of the minority party does not stop her from having voice; it actually

allows her to speak up more for what she knows is right, even if they are not from the same party. She opened up our eyes to what a government should be and taught us how to apply ourselves. To close up Kennedy's question, we need to remember the two important vocabulary words our previous Governor, Annie, taught us yesterday: compassion and passion. Compassion is having "sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others" while passion is having "a strong desire or emotion for something."

These two definitions are something to take home with us and share with others. Both of these amazing women have given us the necessary tools needed for making our state a better place and to help improve topics such as education. We will all miss them dearly as we finish out the week, but we can all agree that we are thankful for the time and dedication they have given us to allow us to grasp the necessary tools to make the right decision. Now we just need to finish the week out strong and take back all of the lessons and experiences we have learned here at Girl's State. Enjoy the rest of your time here at Girl's State and congratulations to all newly elected and appointed city, county, and state officials!



GS Alum page 1
 Kidnapped page 2
 Inspiration page 3
 Pop It. Lock It. page 4
 Magical Mimosa page 5
 Mock Trial page 6

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2015 Girls State Reporters
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An Overflow of Talent

KathleenWatz
 Ocotillo City Reporter

Come one, come all! The entire Girls State gathered in the State House for one special evening, the talent show. This show was not short of talent. Every single girl who was courageous enough to get on stage caused numerous uproars of applause throughout the crowd. Girls from different cities and counties participated. The city of Ocotillo had an outstanding number of four citizens displaying talent.

The girls who performed from Ocotillo ranged from monologues, to the ukulele, to an outstanding song, to very fast fingers on the piano. These girls worked hard and had a lot of courage to get up in front of everyone. Cristaly Betancourt performed a monologue from Finding Nemo. Kathleen Watz played La Vie en Rose on the ukulele as well as sang it. Ivana Rodriguez sang I'm Yours by Jason Mraz. Emily Chou received a standing ovation for

her skills on the piano. All the girls, even the people from other cities, performed excellently and displayed their talents for everyone to see.

As well as having girls participate in the talent show Ocotillo also had amazing spirit for everyone in the talent show. The cheered and encouraged all the girls even if they were very nervous or scared. After the show the citizens of Ocotillo congratulated all the participants from the city with praise and applause. They were so energetic and loving to everyone in the show, especially their fellow girls from Ocotillo.

The talent show was a success. The girls on stage displayed their talents very well. The girls in the audience did as well. They had so much spirit and love for the girls performing. Getting up on stage is courageous and nerve wrecking. The audience did a great job making the performers feel at ease. This was a night where everyone learned more about people and the state of Girls State grew closer.

Saguaros revolt! Mayor kidnapped! Entire Saguaro city found guilty

LaurenOlson
 Saguaro City Reporter

This morning at approximately 6:20 am the city of Saguaro kidnapped their mayor. Pretending to be knocking to wake her up, the unsuspecting mayor opened the door to a revolting city. A bag was thrown over her head and she was forced to sit in a chair and then tied up with yarn. The kidnappers used the elevator to send the mayor up to the 6th floor.

Below is an exclusive interview with the mayor herself.

What was going through your head at the time of the attack?

I was very, uh; I didn't know what was going on. I was confused and I was like what the heck are these guys doing...My own people.

Why didn't you fight back?

It was early in the morning. At 6:23 in the morning, exactly. I was so tired that I didn't even know what was going on; my mind was just blank. I just wanted to go back to sleep. That's why I stuck my foot out the door, to get the door open because I thought they were waking me up.

How do you plan on handling the revolt?

I had to think about that. For all the citizens, including the innocents, they will have to suffer through the pain also because they didn't stop those that were guilty. (At this point one of those innocent citizens interjected "I was sleeping!" to which Nina responded, "I was sleeping, too.") For their jail time, they will have to be at their city hall from 4:50 to 5:10. They have to bring everything- water, food, if you want to bring a pillow or blanket, okay. I will get to say when they can leave.

Do you remember anything significant about your captors?

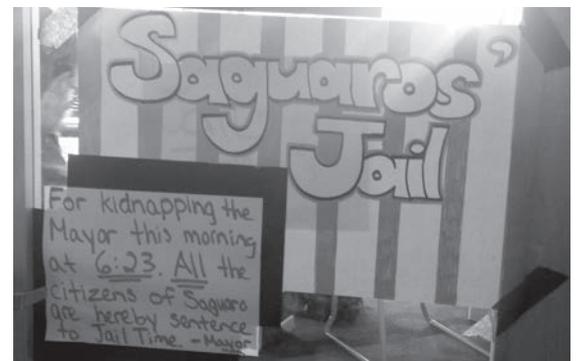
I remember Kelly. She put the pillow cover over my head. So, I remember.

What happened?

So, this is what happened. I opened the door, the first thing I saw was Kelly and then I saw the other girls, I didn't know who, but, I just saw girls, okay. Then, my mind just went blank. They put me in the elevator and I was like "Where are we going?" and someone said, "We're not going anywhere."

How did you fight back?

So, they sent me up to the top sixth floor and I had no idea what was going on. They sent up me up in the elevator and I was waiting for them to be at the top. But, they weren't. So, I was thinking and I was like, "why not make them merciful and give them a real kidnap scene". I was trying to make them think another city was kidnapping me. So I just left the chair in the elevator, just like in the movies. So, then, after I got to the sixth floor I waited for a while and then sent the chair down to the second floor. I pushed the button and watched the doors close and I waited until it reached the second floor and I heard everyone laugh, and then, panic. And then, a few minutes later, I decided to send the yarn they tied me up with and the pillowcase down the elevator to try and make it look like I tried to escape in another city and they kidnapped me.



Inspiration at Girls State

MadisonMazaheri
Ironwood City Reporter

Today we all had the amazing opportunity to speak with the lovely Charlene Fernandez. She is a member of the House of Representatives for Arizona. She represents district four which is one of the largest districts in the whole state. Mrs. Fernandez lives in Yuma and she drives to Phoenix early every Monday morning in order to spend the week there for her job. She is a woman of passion and great integrity. She inspired Girls State delegates to no end. She fights for what's important

to her people and she doesn't rest till it's done. She taught us many life lessons and encouraged us to not only chase our dreams, but to make them happen.

Some like Reece Andonov simply stated "she is my new idol." Rene Ferguson told us "if she ran for governor she'd have my vote!" I think we were all blown away by not only the content of her character and her passion, but by her fantastic speaking skills. All the girls were engaged the whole time and asked questions like crazy.

Meghan Cawley from the city of Ironwood stated "I really loved the enthusiasm she had the whole time she was speaking,

she was just so passionate." Not only did she relate to us as an education lover and a person who presents herself as a warrior in the battle field of the court house, but also a proud feminist. Hailey Abrams from Ironwood mentioned "I think she related to us the most as woman and she was really inspiring and it was really good for us to hear her story."

Everyone was mesmerized during her speech and we were all so moved by the way her passion just poured out when she spoke. She is an outstanding role model and I think I can speak for most Girls Staters when I say she is an inspiration.

The Importance of Being HERnandez

KaleyScott
& HannahGrothe
Yucca City Reporters

Today in the state house, Girl's State delegates had the honor of hearing from a fantastic guest speaker, Charlene Hernandez of the Arizona House of Representatives District 4. She explained to all of the girls in attendance the value of prioritizing education or what matters to the

girls or their eventual constituents when thinking in terms of bills or laws. When asked about feminism, Hernandez showed her full support for girl power and equal rights. She made sure to mention the significance of a woman's independence and the authority that all women possess as individuals. She inspired the girls to work for goals without asking for the permission

or approval of anyone else. Mrs. Hernandez later went on to address that women can do anything that men can do.

The possibilities of what women can do are endless. Charlene Hernandez is a perfect example of a strong woman representative in a male dominated government. She refuses to stop working towards what she believes in no matter the tribulations

that may impede her journey. She knows that a person can't wait for an opportunity to come along they must push themselves. She goes after what she wants and strives to reach her goal. Charlene Hernandez is a fantastic role model for young women, teaching every girl the importance of women's independence and focusing on specific issues at hand.

Mesquite City's Agricultural Archives Stay green. Save green.

AaditeeKudrimoti & ReinaPile
Mesquite City Reporters

... We don't inherit our earth from our ancestors, we borrow from our children....

To save our Earth from ourselves and for our posterity, Environmental conservatism needs to be made a priority all around Arizona, which needs a starting point.

The girls of Mesquite City are working towards a greener future, where renewable energy sources are the main energy source.

Their main stance is the use of water for energy. Water can be used in both agriculture and energy production. In the field of agriculture, hydroponics is the process of growing plants using nutrient solutions in water with no soil. Some benefits to hydroponics are a decrease in land use for crops, there is less water usage than crops, and there is less pesticide use. Some disadvantages include the cost for hydroponics are more expensive than traditional farms and hydroponic fields require more

research and attention.

Another way we are using water to help the community is hydroponic power. This power is more often than not conducted by dams. With the lakes and dams in Arizona, it is possible that we could power most of the state. Water is a renewable source that can be used for energy and crops, and a smart way to start saving the environment.

Live for and love the Earth.

From Girls State to Everyday

Marissa Rottnek
Yucca City Reporter

To many who have never been to Girls State, it is simply just a boring government thing. To those who have been to Girls State it is so much more. The citizens of Girls State are able to learn about the government in a way that most teenagers don't get the opportunity to. The girls vote like the average citizen and they run for offices like so few in America. The benefits of the different branches of government are learned as well as the process and the more intricate details in the political

system. These girls are already preparing for their future whether they just do their civil duty and vote or they reach beyond that and run for some sort of office.

The girls here at Girls State are able to talk about their opinions and thoughts on things that most teenagers and even adults don't really want to discuss, things such as education and welfare. While in the "real world" many teenage girls who try to voice their opinion of the state of the country get told "you're just a teenager you don't know what you're talking about," Girls State is giving everyone a chance to speak their mind freely. Girls

are able to speak without anyone looking down on them when they really should be grateful that the youth is taking a interest in the country. The girls are shown that their opinions matter and are valued just like they should be in real life.

While we may not be here longer we will all be taking what we have learned and applying to our real live. This may be knowing how to vote, how to be an informed voter, knowing how to run for office, or even just the reminder that are opinions and thought are just as important as anyone else's.



Pop it. Lock it. Rock it.

Nicole Clasen
Manzanita City Reporter

With the election of governor Maricella Garcia, who belongs to the Federalist party, many people may find themselves questioning what the Federalist party stands for.

As the party rallies commenced on Tuesday night, the Federalist chant "Get fed" was heard echoing throughout Likin Hall. During the rally Gabby DeGravina, Federalist party chairman, outlined the party's platform.

The Federalist position focuses heavily on matters involving education. A reduction in state issued standardized tests such as AZ Merit and Benchmarks, and curriculum taught

and created by teachers. Increasing the budget for arts and career preparedness programs. Budget equality for schools to maintain socioeconomic equality. The Federalist party has a strong stance on agricultural development as well as environmental conservation.

So what does the election of a Federalist Governor mean for the fate of Arizona Girls State? Nothing. Both Nationalist and Federalist parties are concerned with similar things. Working together as one state, versus working as two parties will create better education, with standards created by teachers. A reduction in standardized testing. Budget equality for schools. Economic and

agricultural conscientiousness. Equal opportunity for minorities and the lower and middle classes. A solution to problems that not only this state faces, but America as a whole. A

united front means having a governor who will push for change in a time that desperately needs it. It is the foundation for a better future, for a better Arizona Girls State.



How has your Girls State experience been thus far? Ironwood girls tell their answers!

AngelaBell
Ironwood City Reporter

Lexie Grant: This week has been Aca-awesome! I met so many unique ladies and I am so happy that they're part of my life now. I also learned more about the state and how the government works, which is also a plus.

Reece Andonov: This week has been great. I've made so many unexpected friendships and gotten so close to everyone.

Maddie Stidham: Girls State has been absolutely phenomenal. Not only have

I grown emotionally, but the knowledge I've gained and friends I've made will last me a lifetime. Thank you American Legion Auxiliary for changing my life.

Cristina Garibay: My Girls State experience has been aca-awesome. I've met some amazing people who I feel have helped me grow as a person. I've learned so much.

Christina Bottenfield: I've really enjoyed my time here and have met some really awesome girls. I love how everyone is so laid back and accessible. It's also been really interesting listening to our guest speakers and learning about the pro-

cess of government and the importance of getting involved and making a difference in our communities.

Madelynn Brewer: I have had an absolutely amazing time at Girls State! I love my Aca-Ironwood girls! Even though it's been exhausting, I will never forget this experience.

Karen McCleve: My GS experience has been stressful but overall enjoyable. I've enjoyed being involved and having the opportunity to meet wonderful girls and make friends and lasting memories. It's fun to meet girls that can be so different yet so like me.

The Life of a Captive

KirstenOrrahood
Saguaro City Reporter

Imagine walking by your city jail and looking to see all of the inmates who captured your city mayor. It sounds slightly nerve racking, but I had a pack of gummy bears so I was all set. There in itself was my mistake. In a blur there was a jail break and I was surrounded

by felons grabbing me and herding me towards the jail.

I remember crying out "No!No!" but to no avail. In no time flat I was all tied up. I looked to my right and saw that the Sheriff has succumb to the same fate. In no time the Mayor returned and wound up in a chair just like the rest of us. The jailbirds then moved us all into the mayor's room and closed the door tight.

Needless to say, it did not take long for the three of us to escape.

While being kidnapped was an experience, the true perpetrator of the jailbreak remains at large. The mayor, the sheriff and myself have yet to press charges. Any information about the people involved with the jail break is greatly appreciated by Saguaro City Police officials.

Mimosa Must Be Magical

HannahHorner & ImmaNgugi
Mimosa City Reporters

In this past week Mimosa has gone from a group of strangers to the strongest and most supported city in Girls State. In the passing days, girls ran for a plethora of positions and more than 1/3 of the population achieved their goals. They not only kicked tail during elections they also took the stage away during last night's talent show.

As most people know Maricella Garcia

ran for Governos and WON! This girl poured her heart into her campaign. She did not use posters or flyers, however she used her heart and mind. She earned her votes through discussion with her congregation. She genuinely loves Girls State and cannot wait to come back next year.

In these previous elections the city won several positions. They ranged from city to state. There are actually two girls, Kennedy Prock and Sydney Jenner, running for Girls Nation from Mimosa. The city has many girls in the Senate as well as the

House.

Lastly, the talent show presented many girls from Mimosa. The acts ranged from slam poetry to piano performances. If can be seen that Mimosa is talent filled. Mimosa citizen Lauren Remy, taught the audience of Mark Smith and what slam poetry really is. Delaney Kranz killed it with her views on politics.

Overall, it can be seen that Mimosa city really is Magical. It's a place where girls dreams rally do come true. Mimosa is the happiest place in Girls State.

Exhaustion at Girls State

MeganEwy
Ocotillo City Reporter

Basic functioning, like listening, talking, and just plain interacting, can be extremely difficult to do after a day consisting of sweltering hot walks, informatively expansive lectures, and belling bursting meals. Add this to 16 hour work days and you have a recipe for extreme exhaustion. Even walking around the U of A campus, anyone near enough to a Girls State delegate can catch small glimpses of mumbled conversations based on how tired all these fellow girls are.

However, at such a prestigious program no one wants to miss a single moment as they create their collection of memories that will always be present in their heart. So, in order to combat this threat of exhaustion, there are

several ways to keep your eyes open as to not miss a single second. Firstly, the most popular method of combating sleepiness is the consumption of caffeine through coffee and soda. Luckily, the staff at Girls State knows that this program is extremely tiresome--even though it entails hard work and attention to detail-- so they generously supply this stimulant at every meal. Coffee at breakfast. Soda at lunch. Soda at dinner.

If the intake of caffeine isn't enough to keep the representatives at Girls States awake, another well-known method is activity: Having your heart beat at an accelerated pace helps distribute blood to every part of your body-- especially your brain-- and, thus, aids in fighting the threat that consists of drooping eyelids, sluggish movements, and--of course-- full on coma-

tose. Well, fortunately, everyone at Girls State gets plenty of exercise by walking from continuously walking around U of A's campus from one side of the campus to another side.

But the real battle occurs when all of the young ladies of this program are congregated into an auditorium and told lecture after lecture after lecture. This is when the last-- and final-- weapon can be utilized: gum. Gum is the victor in this fight against exhaustion when all else fails. The minty fresh taste keeps your mind awake and focused while combating bad breath. This is the true MVP. However, there are many, many more ways to stay awake and focused and everyone is different, but I hope these few tips are able to help all of my fellow Girls State representatives fight the threat of exhaustion.



Mock Trial: Putting Girls State citizens on the stand

NatalieEzeugwu
Sycamore City Reporter

With the court system now established, the Girls State mock trial is in the making. A grave crime has purportedly been committed by one of the our own Girls State citizens, putting the livelihood of another at stake. Several girls witnessed certain aspects of the events that unfolded on that fateful day, and these citizens shall appear on the witness stand.

Both plaintiff and defense

will make opening statements, interview the witnesses and expose the evidence. Ultimately, it will be up to the jury to decide if the defendant is indeed guilty. Is she to blame or are they prosecutors simply mistaken?

The court officials convened in several meetings to hash out the details for the court case. We hope that you as an audience enjoy the trial. And hopefully our actions in the courtroom will do the citizens justice.

Cholla Goes Mad...

PaulinaLianoz &
EmmaWallace
Cholla City Reporters

At the last city hall meeting Sunday night, the girls of Cholla decided on their theme: Alice in Wonderland. For 3 days, each girl worked on their door. Although the girls all worked on their own doors, the whole city cooperated to correlate each door with the others.

Erika Albrecht, is one of the many artists withing Cholla. Albrecht spent many hours creating 2 large Alice's, and 2 small Alice's. According to Albrecht, her favorite part about working on the doors was, "coming up with ideas together and doing crazy things."

Though lacking some serious sleep, Supai County Attorney Klarissa Arreola shared the same enthusiasm for door decorations. Scared that Cholla would not finish in time, Klarissa stayed up way past bedtime in order to finish her "down the rabbit hole" decor in an effort to hide from the hawk eyes of city supervisor Mr. Gaines, Klarissa decided to take a quick cat nap hidden behind a wall of the art room. Klarissa woke up at 4am and tiptoed back to bed, only getting 2 hours of genuine sleep.

The Cholla girls worked hard but it is up to the panel of judges now! Who will win the door competitions this year?